

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, February 4, 2013

The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

Members present: Ira Berkowitz, Brad Bernstein, Mimi Deem, Marguerite Garrick, Laurel Harrington, Michelle Harris, Darryl Higuchi, Eric Schneider and Mark Stapleton.

Absent: Patty DeForrest, Andrea Maddox-Dallas and Melanie Tamsky

Also Present: Eric Gruenenfelder, Tim Hohenstein and Denise Ucinski.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the December and January meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no addresses from the audience.

Draft Procedures – Youth Sports:

Mr. Gruenenfelder and Mr. Hohenstein discussed the plans to change the registration process for youth sports leagues. Currently, children are registered individually and then assigned to teams during the coach's draft. The new process which will start with the 2013 Youth Soccer and Youth Volleyball season, will involve complete teams registering for the leagues. Reasons for the change are: the current draft process has become a superfluous process, requests for change in the process have been on-going, and the elimination of a position in the Athletic Department, processes and task were evaluated; staff estimated that the change will save approximately 80 hours of work each sport season.

Mr. Gruenenfelder explained that coaches have been arriving at the draft with specific list of children who they want on their team. Once the registration deadline passes, staff has to field many phone calls from parents, track down missing information from registered participants and execute waitlist procedures. After staff makes changes to team rosters they are sent out to coaches and parents. When parents receive the rosters and practice times, staff spends an inordinate amount of time returning calls about team assignment and for a variety of other reasons.

The new process will make coaches responsible for finding the players for their teams and completing the registration process. Mr. Gruenenfelder and Mr. Hohenstein stated that the only thing changing is the process. The City's Youth Leagues will remain recreational, have the same benefits, uniforms, practice time, equipment and players will still get equal playing time. Individual registration will still be accepted for individuals who are unable to find a team or who may be new to the area. The coaches will be informed that the City has the right to add players to their existing teams. Kindergarten soccer and baseball registration will not change; every child will be registered individually.

Mr. Hohenstein told the Commission about the communication plan that is being developed in order to ensure schools, coaches and parents are aware of the upcoming Youth League changes. The Athletic and Facilities Department is taking the necessary step to set themselves up for success prior to these changes, and will stress the importance of rec leagues to the coaches in all of their communications.

Commission member discussed their thoughts about the registration change. Mr. Bernstein stated that he totally disagrees with changing the way Clayton forms teams. He said he believes the change will make Clayton leagues more like select leagues. Further, Mr. Bernstein feels like this situation will change the vision of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Deem responded by saying sports are about friends, especially in middle school and not about who is the best player on the team. She also said if the process is not working it is a good idea to tweak it. The majority of the Commission members stated that the draft was very time consuming and was not an effective way of selecting teams for a variety

of reasons. The Commission will trust that staff will continue to help their coordinators, coaches and referees understand the philosophy of recreational leagues. Mr. Gruenenfelder reiterated the fact that staff will continue to keep a close eye on things, make sure rules are being enforced and nothing is jeopardized with the leagues. At the end of the discussion, it was noted that this change will be good for the coaches, parents and participants.

Director's Report:

Project Update – The Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay Committee has met a few times. Ms. Garrick and Ms. Deem said the meetings will take place until June. Ms. DeForrest will try to get SWT to attend the March meeting to talk about the overlay process.

-Shaw Park Recreational Trail: this project is slated to begin on March 11. The City has final approval from MSD. Construction will begin on the east side of the park by field six and will be completed in different phases so the park will not be torn up all at once.

-Hanley House Porches: Both porches are up and now construction staff are working on the ramp. On April 4 from 4:30-6:30 pm there will be a cocktail hour at the Hanley House to dedicate the porches.

-Hanley House Windows: The Wilson Company has been hired to do the window project.

-Enterprise Holdings Pavilion: In February bids were opened; unfortunately the lowest bid was \$300,000 over budget. A meeting was held with the lowest bidder to find out if something in the bid was misunderstood. This was not the case so staff is meeting with Christner to discuss cutting items from the design. A meeting will also be held with Enterprise to provide them with possible design options.

-The James Surls art piece is scheduled to be installed on time.

The Clayton Century Foundation designated \$30,000 to fund the Shaw Park Ice Rink design. Ms. DeForrest will contact Jacobs to get a cost estimate. Ms. DeForrest will see if Jacobs can be at the April meeting to discuss the ice rink design. Mr. Gruenenfelder said Ms. DeForrest asked him to mention that a couple of Commission member will be needed to serve on an ice rink committee.

-Ice Rink Update: Mr. Gruenenfelder reported that the 2012-2013 ice rink season is going very well; skate rental, daily admission and ice rental revenue are all already exceeding FY13 revenue projections. The Mid-State Hockey Tournament was a success. Skate with Ralph Clayton will be held on Friday, February 22.

-Tennis Center: A request for proposal was sent out for tennis center services. The City received three proposals, which are currently being reviewed by staff. Interviews with the service providers are taking place too.

-The Center of Clayton: Membership sales numbers were up in December and January. Excess fitness equipment was sold on govdeal.com. Fitness staff was hoping for \$1,200 in sales, but made over \$3,600.

Old Business / New Business

Ms. Deem announced that the Centennial Trail Dedication will be held on Friday, April 26 at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski